

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RACHRISTENSEN:LG

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT

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R 280202Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213970

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, RO

SUBJECT: MIRCEA DEFECTIONS

REF: STATE 184126 AND PREVIOUS; BUCHAREST 4515

1. IF AND WHEN QUESTION OF MIRCEA DEFECTIONS ARISES AGAIN WITH ROMANIANS, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. EMBASSY IS WELL AWARE FROM PREVIOUS TELEGRAMS AND REPRESENTATION BY GLIGA AND MOD OF PROBLEMS WHICH AROSE DURING VISIT OF MIRCEA BECAUSE OF DEFECTIONS BY THREE MEMBERS OF CREW. UNFORTUNATE ROMANIAN REACTION TO DEFECTIONS--WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN ANTICIPATED BY ROMANIANS AS THEY PLANNED VISIT--MARRED A GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS PARTICIPATED IN SOCIAL FUNCTION FOR MIRCEA HELD DURING BALTIMORE STAY AND NOTED ENTHUSIASM OF CREW MEMBERS PRESENT AT FUNCTION FOR HOSPITALITY WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN THEM DURING VISIT. THEY APPEARED TO BELIEVE THAT HOSPITALITY WHICH HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR THEM EXCEEDED THAT WHICH

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MEMBERS OF OTHER SHIPS HAD RECEIVED AND THEY WERE

FAVORABLY IMPRESSED. ACTIVITIES IN OTHER PORTS ALSO WENT WELL.

3. YOU MAY NOTE OUR COOPERATION IN ARRANGING MEETINGS BETWEEN ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES AND DEFECTORS. EMBASSY MAY NOTE THAT WHILE WE ARE WILLING TO FACILITATE MEETINGS IN SUCH CASES, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO FORCE CONFRONTATIONS ON UNWILLING DEFECTORS AND WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO OBLIGE DEFECTORS TO RETURN TO ROMANIA. WHILE WE ARE NOT ABLE TO FORCE RETURN OF DEFECTORS, AT THE SAME TIME WE IN NO WAY ENCOURAGE VISITING ROMANIANS TO SEEK TO REMAIN IN THE UNITED STATES.

4. IN THE CASE OF THE MIRCEA WE REGRET VERY MUCH THAT SIMPLE OFFERS OF HOSPITALITY AND GESTURES OF FRIENDSHIP ON THE PART OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, SUCH AS THOSE BY MR. AND MRS. PUICAN, APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TOTALLY MIS-INTERPRETED. WE CAN STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT THE USG HAD NO INTEREST IN INOUCING MEMBERS OF THE MIRCEA TO DEFECT AND THAT THE USG PLAYED NO ROLE IN THE RECENT DEFECTIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS QUITE CLEAR IN THE CONFRONTATIONS WHICH WERE ARRANGED AND THAT THE ROMANIAN REPRESENTATIVES HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THAT THE DECISIONS BY THE INDIVIDUAL ROMANIANS CONCERNED WERE MADE LONG BEFORE THE MIRCEA ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES--INDEED, IT APPEARS IN ADVANCE OF THE SHIP'S DEPARTURE FROM ROMANIA. KISSINGER

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